

The Constitution of the United Teachers of South Washington County

Preamble

We, the members of the United Teachers of South Washington County, believing that the active participation of non-supervisory licensed educational personnel, educational assistants and school related personnel in the development of educational policy is essential for sound education in a democratic society, have joined together, as herein defined in this constitution and these bylaws, for the Independent School District 833.

Article I: Name:

The name of this organization shall be the United Teachers of South Washington County hereinafter referred to as the UTSWC.

Article II: Objective:

The purpose of this organization shall be to:

1. promote the improvement of public education,
2. serve the teachers of ISD 833 as exclusive bargaining representative whenever such authority exists in accordance with M.S. 179.61-179.76 Public Employee Labor Relations Act.
3. encourage teacher involvement in political activity,
4. raise the standards of the teaching profession,
5. promote the democratization of schools.

Article III: Affiliations:

The UTSWC is affiliated with Education Minnesota (EM), the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), the National Education Association (NEA) and the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) in accordance with the provisions of the Constitutions and Bylaws of those bodies. If any provisions of this constitution and these bylaws conflict with or violate those of the parent organizations, the provisions of the parent organizations shall supersede those contained herein.

Article IV: Membership:

Membership in the UTSWC shall be in accordance with the constitution and bylaws of EM, AFT, NEA and AFL-CIO. Members in good standing shall be members of EM, AFT, NEA, AFL-CIO. No one shall hold office on the UTSWC who is not a member of all of the above. Should any person be ineligible for membership in an affiliate, that person shall also be ineligible for membership in the UTSWC.

Article V: Dues

Section 1: Members and dues shall consist of: a UTSWC portion, the amount of which shall be determined under the provisions of the UTSWC bylaws; a Parent dues portion, the amount of which shall be the higher of NEA or AFT membership dues (including any payments to AFL-

CIO and any of its councils), added to EM membership dues (including any payments to Uniservs. Area Councils or Central Labor Bodies).

Section 2: The Parent dues shall be remitted to EM, which shall remit the proper portions to AFL, NEA and AFL-CIO.

Section 3: All members in each UTSWC bargaining unit and within each UTSWC membership class shall pay identical dues.

Section 4: Any agency fees that may be collected by UTSWC shall be considered as membership dues, and, to the extent permitted by the law, shall be included with such UTSWC membership dues and the agency fees, in the transmissions provided for in Section 2 above.

Article VI: Officers:

Section 1: The Executive Officers of the UTSWC shall be President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Section 2: Membership in good standing for at least one year is required to hold office in the UTSWC.

Section 3: The President and Vice President of the UTSWC shall be elected to terms of two years in odd numbered years.

Section 4: The Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected to a term of two years in even numbered years.

Section 5: The President shall preside at all meetings of the UTSWC and is entitled to sit ex officio on any committee, shall appoint all committees and committee chairpersons and shall be chief executive officer with the power to sign documents on behalf of the UTSWC.

Section 6: The Vice President shall perform the duties and have the powers of the president during any absence of the President or inability of the President to act. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the president, the Vice President shall perform the duties of the President until a special election can be held to fill the vacancy. The Vice President shall be co-chair of the committees appointed by the President and of which they mutually agree.

Section 7: The Secretary shall keep all records including minutes of all UTSWC meetings, membership lists, and maintain a current web page. The Secretary shall be co-chair of the committees appointed by the President and of which they mutually agree.

Section 8: The Treasurer shall receive and disburse all funds of the UTSWC, shall prepare a monthly update of the UTSWC financial status, and shall submit an annual financial report to the President. The Treasurer shall be co-chair of the committees appointed by the President and of which they mutually agree.

Section 9: Each building shall elect at least one representative to a term of service. Buildings that have an FTE of 65 or more shall elect two full representatives. The building representative shall report the proceedings of UTSWC meetings to his/her building at a meeting held in their building after the UTSWC General Membership meeting. Each building representative shall

explain the position of all UTSWC committees, the Executive Board and General Membership decisions and initiatives.

Section 10: The Executive Board shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and nine other UTSWC members appointed by the President and approved by a majority vote at a local meeting. No more than two members may be appointed from any one building.

Section 11: Racial and Ethnic Diversity: It is the goal of the UTSWC to have an executive board that is reflective of the racial and ethnic diversity of the membership. To aid in achieving this goal, the membership of the executive board may be augmented by the addition of members-at-large who are ethnic minorities appointed from the membership to the executive board. The number of new appointments of such executive board at-large members shall not exceed the same ratio as the percentage of minorities in the population of the state of Minnesota according to the last census.

Article VII: Amendments

This constitution shall be amended as follows: the proposed amendment shall be submitted at any UTSWC local General Membership meeting, read to the assembled members and distributed to all members prior to the next local General Membership meeting. A 2/3 vote of those members present at the next local General Membership meeting shall be sufficient to adopt the amendment.

Updated 10/27/14